

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/182 W

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R 221633 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7919

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IT, XG

SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES

EC BRUSSELS FOR UNDERSECRETARY CASEY

REF: ROME 2218

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FRANCISCI, IN CHARGE EC ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS) TELLS US THAT INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING MARCH 14 CHAIRED
BY PRIME MINISTER DECIDED TO " ABANDON" ESPOUSAL OF REVERSE PREFER-
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ENCES AS ELEMENT EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY.

2. FRANCISCI RELATED FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS THAT LEAD GOI TO THIS POSITION: REVERSE PREFERENCES ARE NOT PARTICULARLY VALUABLE TO ITALY (AND NOT PARTICULARLY HARMFUL TO THIRD PARTIES), THEY CAUSE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH U. S. AS WELL AS PROBLEM OF PRINCIPLE IN GATT, AND THEY ARE OPPOSED BY MOST EC MEMBERS AND IN PARTICULAR THE FRG.

3. ASKED WHEN AND IN WHAT WAY NEW GOI POSITION WOULD TAKE EFFECT, FRANCISCI SAID THAT WHILE DECISION TAKEN, TIMING AND FORUM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED. IT COULD BE DONE IN EC OR GATT CONTEXT, OR HOPEFULLY BOTH. WE WERE UNABLE TO CLARIFY THIS LACK OF PRECISION, NOR TO DRAW FRANCISCI OUT ON HOW GOI THINKS ASSOCIATED ISSUES SHOULD BE HANDLED.

4. COMMENT. GOI DECISION IS CULMINATION OF EVALUATION WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME MONTHS (ROME 1715, 767, 6942). ONE BASIC MOTIVATION, IN ADDITION TO THOSE CITED BY OUR SOURCE, WAS CONCERN THAT REVERSE PREFERENCES IMPLY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AT THE EXPENSE OF ITALY. WHILE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE IS HELPFUL, WE NOTE THAT IT REMAINS UNCLEAR HOW IT WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT AND WHETHER GOI WILL VIGOROUSLY ADVOCATE EC' S ABANDONING REVERSE PREFERENCES OR TAKE MORE PASSIVE STANCE. VOLPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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Subject: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES
TAGS: ETRD, IT, XG, EEC
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG

MULTIPLE
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

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